

Foreword

The Texas State Health Plan is prepared every six years and updated biennially. The plan serves as a guide to help Texas decision makers formulate appropriate health policies and programs.

The Texas Statewide Health Coordinating Council, a 17-member council with 12 members appointed by the governor and five ex-officio members representing specified state agencies, develops the plan. The Texas Health Planning and Development Act, Chapter 104 of the Health and Safety Code, is the enabling legislation for the Statewide Health Coordinating Council. Under the authority of Chapter 104, the governor with the consent of the senate appoints council members to staggered six-year terms.

The broad purpose of the Statewide Health Coordinating Council is to ensure that health care services and facilities are available to all Texans through health planning activities. Based on these planning activities, the council makes recommendations to the governor and the legislature through the Texas State Health Plan. The council provides overall guidance in the development of the Texas State Health Plan, submission of the plan to the governor, and promoting the implementation of the plan. The plan is due to the governor for adoption by November 1 of each even-numbered year. Staff in the Office of Policy and Planning with assistance from other program areas at the Texas Department of Health supports the council's activities.

House Bill 1716 from the 75th Legislature amended Chapter 104 of the Health and Safety Code and focused the council's planning activities on the health professions workforce. The council produced the 1999-2004 Texas State Health Plan, "Ensuring a Quality Health Care Workforce for Texas," which is the foundational plan for this six year planning cycle. This 2001-2002 Texas State Health Plan is the first update to that foundational document. For the purposes of this report, the 1999 – 2004 Texas State Health Plan will be referenced as the *Texas State Health Plan* and the 2001-2002 Texas State Health Plan Update will be referred to as the *Update*.

The *Texas State Health Plan* outlined Texas's interests in health professions workforce issues. The state is a major provider of medical and health education through its system of publicly funded health science centers, universities, and community and technical colleges. Texas is a major purchaser of health care services through the state's Medicaid program and other public health care programs as well as a provider of these services through its system of publicly funded medical schools and hospitals. Finally, with its citizens, Texas shares responsibility for the health, safety, and welfare of its residents. In the *Texas State Health Plan*, the council developed and presented seven goals, with objectives and strategies, to ensure that Texas has the workforce with the skills and abilities to meet the needs of its growing and diverse population.

The *Texas State Health Plan* was presented to Governor Bush on October 31, 1998. Over 400 copies of the plan have been distributed to state legislators, universities, licensing boards, professional associations, and other interested parties. That plan has served as the foundational health professions information and workforce planning document. It has informed the Statewide Health Coordinating Council ad hoc committee reports, legislative studies, and Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board strategic planning. This ongoing effort to ensure a quality health care workforce for Texas is reflected in this *Update*.

Copies of the 1999 – 2004 Texas State Health Plan are available from the Texas Department of Health, Office of Policy and Planning at a cost of \$20.00. To order a copy of the plan, call 512-458-7261. The plan can be downloaded from the website at www.tdh.state.tx.us/stateplan/ShPlan.htm.

